

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the subparagraph at page 6, lines 8-19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Repeating similar runs, the inventors have found that under the conditions:

$$0.48 \leq P_T/(\lambda/NA) \leq 0.74, \text{ and}$$

$$P_T \leq 0.50 \text{ } \mu\text{m},$$

and especially,

$$0.50 \leq P_T/(\lambda/NA) \leq 0.70, \text{ and}$$

$$P_T \leq 0.45 \text{ } \mu\text{m},$$

the cross-erasing can be significantly reduced by employing the groove recording mode rather than the land/groove recording mode. For this reason, the ~~prevent~~ present invention provides for the groove recording mode when $P_T/(\lambda/NA)$ and P_T are within the above-defined range.

Please replace the Abstract at page 27, lines 1-16, with the following rewritten Abstract:

ABSTRACT

In an optical recording medium ~~comprising~~ including a grooved light-transparent substrate, a phase change recording layer, a dielectric layer and a reflective layer, recording is carried out by irradiating a laser beam to the recording layer through an objective lens in an optical system. The recording is carried out in ~~the grooves~~ a groove recording mode under the conditions: $0.48 \leq P_T/(\lambda/NA) \leq 0.74$, and $P_T \leq 0.50 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ wherein λ is a laser beam wavelength, NA is an objective lens numerical aperture, and P_T is a track pitch, thereby forming a recorded mark having opposite ends extending out of the groove. This enables high density recording and increases the data transfer rate of a phase change optical recording medium.